



Vernon Hills Sports Club, Inc.
www.vhcougars.org

PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Children's sports are supposed to be fun – for the *children*. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

That is why the **Vernon Hills Sports Club, (VHSC)**, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth in sports, has adopted the following **Code of Conduct** for parents and spectators to abide by at every game. The Code of Conduct can also be found at www.vhcyaa.org.

Parents, fans and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about ... BEING FUN FOR EVERYONE.

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youths, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the VHSC and the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his or her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- 16. I will help my child get to games and practices on time.**
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

18. I will never voice any complaints or concerns toward coaches, referees, umpires, or league officials in front of the children during practices or games. Any complaints or concerns can be directed to the appropriate VHSC League Commissioner where it will be promptly investigated.
19. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events. I will not use drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products while a participant in or a spectator at a youth sports event.
20. I will not permit my child, or encourage any other person, to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products at a youth sports event and will not permit my child, or encourage any other person, to attend, coach, officiate, or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
21. I will not permit my child to participate in another travel team program while actively participating in a VHSC program unless it is approved by the VHSC Executive Board or Approved by team head coach.
22. I agree to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports.
23. I agree to encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
24. I agree to provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
25. I agree to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by helping to provide a positive team experience by being a respectful fan and volunteering to help with tasks as needed and as I am capable of doing, including, cleaning and maintaining the field or gym, announcing games, providing transportation, and assisting with team meetings and parties.
26. I will not approach my child's coach after a game, to discuss playing time or coaching strategies. I will respect the 24-hour "Cooling Off" period.
27. I agree that my child's image may be published in VHSC marketing material including, but not limited to, the VHSC web site and associated program web sites.

I acknowledge that this **Code of Conduct** has been adopted by the Vernon Hills Sports Club. I agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action by the VHSC, that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Parental game suspension or immediate ejection with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Multi-game parental suspension
- Parental season suspension

The code of conduct must be read and signed for each sport and each season of the player's participation. So even though you may have signed one for last season, another is required for this season.

Sport (Baseball, Basketball, Football, etc.)

Season

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Date Signed

Date Signed